

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of facilitating a display of investment information, comprising:
2 determining an amount of shares bid associated with each of a plurality of bid
3 prices for an investment;
4 determining an amount of shares offered associated with each of a plurality of ask
5 prices for the investment; and
6 arranging for indications of the amounts of shares bid and the amounts of shares
7 offered to be graphically displayed so as to provide an investor with a direct sense of
8 market depth associated with the investment.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of the amounts of shares bid
2 and the indication of the amounts of shares offered are graphically displayed on a single
3 investment chart.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the indications comprise at least one of: (i)
2 lines on the investment chart, (ii) points on the investment chart, (iii) bars on the
3 investment chart, (iv) symbols on the investment chart, and (v) colors on the investment
4 chart.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the investment chart includes a first axis
2 associated with share price and a second axis associated with at least one of: (i) a current
3 number of shares bid and offered associated with share price, and (ii) a cumulative
4 number of shares bid and offered.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the investment chart includes a first axis
2 associated with average share price and a second axis associated with a number of shares
3 bid and offered.

1 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the investment chart includes a first axis
2 associated with share price, a second axis associated with a number of shares bid and
3 offered, and third axis associated with time.

1 7. The method of claim 3, wherein information associated with a plurality of
2 investments are graphically displayed on the investment chart.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 arranging for an indication of at least one previous trade to be graphically
3 displayed.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the investment is associated with at least one
2 of: (i) an equity, (ii) a stock, (iii) a debt, (iv) a bond, and (v) a fund of investments.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said arranging comprises:
2 exchanging information with an information display device via a communication
3 network.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the information display device comprises at
2 least one of: (i) a personal computer, (ii) a portable computing device, (iii) a personal
3 digital assistant, (iv) a telephone, (v) a wireless telephone, (vii) an interactive television
4 device, and (viii) a kiosk.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the communication network comprises at
2 least one of: (i) the Internet, (ii) a public network, (iii) a public switched telephone

3 network, (iv) a proprietary network, (v) a cable television network, (vi) a wireless
4 network, and (vii) a local area network.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said determinations are performed in
2 substantially real-time based on information associated with investors.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 updating the indications in substantially real-time based on information associated
3 with investors.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the bid prices and the ask prices comprise
2 decimal values.

1 16. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a storage device in communication with said processor and storing instructions
4 adapted to be executed by said processor to:
5 determine an amount of shares bid associated with each of a plurality of
6 bid prices for an investment;
7 determine an amount of shares offered associated with each of a plurality
8 of ask prices for the investment; and
9 arrange for indications of the amounts of shares bid and the amounts of
10 shares offered to be graphically displayed so as to provide an investor with a
11 direct sense of market depth associated with the investment.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said storage device further stores at least
2 one of: (i) a bid database, and (ii) an offer database.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
2 a communication device coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate
3 with at least one of: (i) an investment information display device, (ii) an investment
4 information controller, and (iii) an investment information device.

1 19. A medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to
2 perform a method of facilitating a display of investment information, said method
3 comprising:

4 determining an amount of shares bid associated with each of a plurality of bid
5 prices for an investment;

6 determining an amount of shares offered associated with each of a plurality of ask
7 prices for the investment; and

8 arranging for indications of the amounts of shares bid and the amounts of shares
9 offered to be graphically displayed so as to provide an investor with a direct sense of
10 market depth associated with the investment.

1 20. A computer-implemented method of facilitating a display of information
2 associated with shares of a stock, comprising:

3 receiving from an investor an indication associated with the stock;

4 determining an amount of shares bid associated with each of a plurality of bid
5 prices for the stock;

6 determining an amount of shares offered associated with each of a plurality of ask
7 prices for the stock;

8 arranging for an investment chart to be displayed to the investor, the investment
9 chart including: (i) a first axis associated with share prices, and (ii) a second axis
10 associated with numbers of shares bid and offered; and

11 arranging for indications of the amounts of shares bid and the amounts of shares
12 offered to be displayed to the investor on the investment chart so as to provide the
13 investor with a direct sense of market depth associated with the investment.

1 21. A method of facilitating a display of investment information, comprising:
2 determining an amount of shares bid associated with each of a plurality of bid
3 prices for an investment;
4 calculating a bid value based on the amounts of shares bid and the bid prices;
5 determining an amount of shares offered associated with each of a plurality of ask
6 prices for the investment;
7 calculating an ask value based on the amounts of shares offered and the ask
8 prices; and
9 arranging for the bid value and the ask value to be displayed.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of bid prices are associated
2 with a pre-determined range of bid prices relative to a maximum outstanding bid price,
3 and the plurality of ask prices are associated with a pre-determined range of ask prices
4 relative to a minimum outstanding ask price.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of bid prices are associated
2 with a pre-determined threshold number of shares bid and the plurality of ask prices are
3 associated with a pre-determined threshold number of shares offered.

1 24. The method of claim 21, wherein said calculations comprise calculating
2 average values per share.

1 25. The method of claim 21, wherein said calculating the bid value comprises
2 determining a minimum bid price and said calculating the ask value comprises
3 determining a maximum ask price.

1 26. A method of facilitating a display of investment information, comprising:
2 determining a plurality of bid prices for an investment associated with a pre-
3 determined number of shares bid;
4 calculating a bid value based on the bid prices;
5 determining a plurality of ask prices for the investment associated with a pre-
6 determined number of shares offered;
7 calculating an ask value based on the ask prices; and
8 arranging for the bid value and the ask value to be displayed.

1 27. A method of facilitating a display of investment information, comprising:
2 determining an amount of shares bid associated with each of a plurality of bid
3 prices for an investment;
4 determining an amount of shares offered associated with each of a plurality of ask
5 prices for the investment;
6 calculating a current value based on the amounts of shares bid, the bid prices, the
7 amounts of shares offered, and the ask prices; and
8 arranging for the current value to be displayed.

1 28. A method of displaying investment information, comprising:
2 requesting information associated with an investment; and
3 providing a graphical display including (i) an indication of amounts of shares bid
4 associated with each of a plurality of bid prices and (ii) an indication of amounts of

- 5 shares offered associated with each of a plurality of ask prices so as to provide an
- 6 investor with a direct sense of market depth associated with the investment.